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West Germany to Open Probe of Spy Network

Espionage Trial of Three Double Agents Discloses Flow of Information to Russia

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BY STERLING SLAPPEY

Los Angeles Times News Service

BONN — The West German government announced Friday that it will make a sweeping investigation of the Gehlen intelligence organization, the spy network brought into public view by the trial at Karlsruhe of three double agents.

Since the opening early this week of the trial of Heinz Felfe and two other Germans, several high German officials have called for an investigation of the Gehlen organization, named for the general who headed the agency in wartime.

Defense Minister Kai-Inh von Hassel, whose ministry probably has been most wounded by an outpouring of information to the Soviet Union, admitted that there are likely to be spy cases in many intelligence organizations.

Investigation Planned

He added that as a result of the trial, the Gehlen organization could be brought under scrutiny.

"The Gehlen organization," said after he was sent to prison, "has been a great source of information to the Soviet Union."

Felfe, who had been a member of the counter-intelligence service, said he was a double agent.

Felfe's release was secured by a denazification court, and he went to work for the British after World War II. He was later released by the British.

several countries. Others are pending.

Heinz Felfe, 45; Hans Clemens, 61, and Hans Triebel, 59, were agents for the Gehlen organization, a government spy group which until recently had managed to be just as secret in West Germany as the United States government intended its Central Intelligence Agency to be.

Reports Photographed

The three men admit photographing thousands of Gehlen reports, lists of agents, double agents and counter-agents, and getting the information to the Russians by way of Berlin and other cities.

They have been spying against the Germans and the West while working for the German government for 10 years. They even charged some of their double-agent expenses off to the government.

One of them confessed that he managed to send the Russians information even after he was sent to prison.

The three were members of Nazi intelligence and counter-intelligence service.

Felfe contends he was released by a denazification court, and he went to work for the British after World War II. He was later released by the British.

spying for the Russians as a grudge act against Americans who bombed his home city of Dresden and who, he says, mistreated him when he was a prisoner of war.

The organization they worked for in Munich was named after former Gen. Reinhard Gehlen of the Nazi army. During the war Gehlen headed a spy group working against the Russians. He was captured by U.S. troops and two years later organized an intelligence group for the U.S. Army. Many agents who were recruited had been Nazi agents.

Seven years ago the government of West Germany took over Gehlen and his group and made him responsible directly to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

The group has 4,000 to 5,000 employees. It is headquartered in a Munich villa surrounded by a park.

The group reportedly cost the United States about \$31 million until 1955. Since then the German government has reportedly spent \$86 million to maintain its activities.

The Felfe trial is expected to last for another 10 days or two weeks with many other revelations to come. For the past two days Supreme Court proceedings have been held in secret because of the security nature of evidence.